

Engraved for the Lady's Magazine



The Suicidel.

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A
GENUINE ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE of *John Rann*,
Alias *Sixteen-string Jack*:

Who was executed NOVEMBER 30th. 1774, for a
Robbery on the Highway, near Brentford;

CONTAINING

HIS ADVENTURES and ENTERPRISES, his nume-
rous ESCAPES from Justice, and his AMOURS
with several Ladies.

Among which is introduced

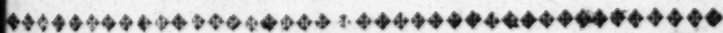
Some Curious ANECDOTES

Of *Miss SMITH* and *Miss ROCHE*,

HIS FAVORITE DULCINEAS

To which is added

Some Strictures on the PENAL LAWS, and a particular
Account of LANE and TROTMAN, executed at the
same Time for the barbarous ROBBERY of Mr.
FLOYD, in a Coach, near Chelsea.



By these sad Tales.

*Virtue is our strong Defence,
From Vice, the undermining Foe;
True Happiness is only thence,
Each british Youth should learn to know.*



London: Bailey, Printer.

1774?

101
- Rec. May 15, 1900.

T H E

INTRODUCTION.

THE Records of the Old Bailey can scarce produce an instance of any unhappy person who ever took so much pains to bring himself to his most unhappy situation. as the person at present under consideration, not only by his commitment of these offences which have been the cause of it, but by a mistaken vanity, in boasting of those very actions. which every honest heart must shudder at the relation of, and every vicious mind tremble at the reward of such iniquitous proceedings.

From his want of conduct, as well as honesty, he became the constant prey of a set of miscreants whose whole existence is supported by those unhappy persons who have had the misfortune to stray from the paths of virtue and honesty; and as he had been a long time marked down by them for *Good Money*, he was sure to be laid hold of upon every occasion that seemed in any manner to correspond with the description of the thief. This was verified by the number of charges alleged against him, and of which he as often exculpated himself, not only from a want of sufficient evidence

dence, but from the confessions of those who have been afterward convicted of other offences.

As in the course of these memoirs we have had occasion to draw a parallel between the offences of Sixteen-staing Jack and the accumulated guilt of others, we cannot help observing that though his charges are many, yet compared with those of a blacker dye, who have received mercy, we cannot help wishing, that this once happy young man might receive some propotion of that heaven-like attribute, and be endowed with grace sufficient to become a useful member of the community.

As some extenuation of his other crimes, we beg leave to observe, that he never was charged with the epithet of being a midnight burghlar, nor that of an inhuman and dastardly footpad, who lays wait for the unwary passenger, not only to plunder him of his property, but sometimes of his life. and under colour of the night escapes with impunity. One instance of this as it is recent in our memory, we have thought proper to give a succinct account of at the conclusion of these pages.

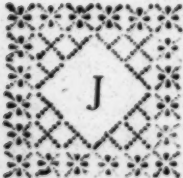
We cannot here help observing how these unhappy people proceed from one vice to another till, at length it becomes so habitual to them, that robbing another of his property, is looked upon by them, as only tasting what is given for the good of all; and murder, in opposition to their depredations, they persuade themselves, is only a defence,

We shall cease to wonder how minds can grow so depraved, when we are informed, that it is the constant maxim of those worst of wretches, the Receivers of Stolen Goods: Of this young Cox was a fatal example, who by following the ill advice of an infamous wretch, followed his practises for some years, and then after robbing him (Cox) hanged him *. This fellow is an humble imitation of the late Dick Swift, of notorious memory but not possessed of either his Learning or Discretion.

* See Claxton's evidence against Cox, at the Old Bailey



A N
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
L I F E, T R I A L and R O B B E R I E S
O F
John Rann, alias Sixteen-string Jack

 O H N R A N N, (the unfortunate subject of these pages) was born at a village within a few miles of the city of Bath; the son of poor, but honest and industrious parents, and for the few first years (after he was able to do any thing for his own support) he subsisted in part by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass.

About the same time that he had attained to the twelfth year of his age, a lady of distinction, who happened to be at Bath for the benefit of the waters, took him under her protection, and from the readiness he evinced to obey the commands of his superiors, he soon became the favorite both of his mistress and fellow servants.

The first account we have of him, as endeavoring to obtain an honest living in London, is that of his being a helper in the stables, at Brooke's mews where he bore a general character for honesty and industry, and was universally well spoken of by his fellow servants.

He was particular unfortunate in the want of education, having never been taught either to read or write ; but if he had made a proper use of the opportunities that have been offered him of living creditable in the world, the occasion of writing this melancholy history would have been superse-

He became the driver of a post-chaise ; and being of light weight, and very skilful, he met with the general approbation of the gentleman whom he had the honour to serve.

His next station was that of a servant to an officer ; and in this rank of like ; he behaved with a degree of prudence and discretion, which gained him the applause of his master and all his acquaintance

Before his character was tainted, he served a noble Duke, in the quality of coachman ; and it is said that he has been also servant to the Premier, and to a noble Earl, to whose undue influence half the misfortunes of this wretched country (if the supposed patriots may be credited) are said to be owing,

About four years ago, he was coachman to a man of fortune not an hundred miles from Portman square.—In this station he was a favorite ;
and

and, if our information be right, much too great a favorite. His master used to allow him money to dress in a way far above his rank; permitted him to wear silk stockings, and gave him silk breeches with eight strings to each knee, from which he acquired, and has since much boasted of, the name of Sixteen-Strings Jack. It is irksome to say what might be said on this occasion, but a miss Smith, with whom this unhappy wretch has since lived, has been heard to say, that he was not a Woman Lover.

The first account we have of the dishonest part of this man's life, is of his having been a pick-pocket, the associate of William Clayton and of John Jones.—He was also an accomplice in this way with one John Colledge, a boy who has acquired the name of Eight Strings Jack.

This unfortunate offender is not more than twenty-five years of age; rather under the middle size; of a florid complexion, and open, honest looking countenance. He wears his own hair, of a light brown colour, which combs over his forehead; and upon the whole, his appearance is such as would rather prepossess a stranger in his favour.

Among the several Robberies said to be committed by Sixteen-string Jack and his associates, soon after their release, the following are said to be some of the most particular: One Timguard, Collier and he, three days after their combination, went towards Hounslow-Heath, where they stopt

a post-chaise, in which was——James esq, and another gentleman, whom they robbed of their gold watches and twenty pounds in cash, with which they made a safe retreat.

Their next exploit was near Highgate, where they attacked two graziers who had been at Smithfield, in the dusk of the evening; but the graziers being well mounted, they made some resistance, and a strong scuffle ensued; but Rann gaining a considerable advantage over one of them, the other was compelled to submit; however their booty fell very short of their expectation, consisting only of two 20l. bank-notes, and between 6 and 7l. in cash, and then jocosely wished them a good journey,

The same night they stoop a post-chaise on their return, at Holloway, with two gentlemen, Tim-guard and Collier went up to the windows while Rann stop the post-boy here they made a booty of only one guinea and four shillings, which silver they generously returned, and so concluded their business for that evening, and retired, each man with his proportion of the plunder to his favorite Dulcinea

It is generally said, that Rann has been tried twelve or fourteen times; but this is not true—He has been indicted at the Old Bailey only three times, before this last trial for the robbery of Dr. Bell, which has ended so fatally for the offender. his trials were, first, for robbing the Queen's postilion; secondly, with Sheppard, as in the ac-

B

count

count hereunto annexed ; and thirdly, for robbing Mr. Devall of his watch, as likewise mentioned in this pamphlet.

At the Sessions held at the Old Bailey. John Rann, William Clayton. and Robert Shephard were indicted for assaulting William Somers on the highway, putting him in coporal fear and danger of his life. and robbing him of four shillings—They were all acquitted.

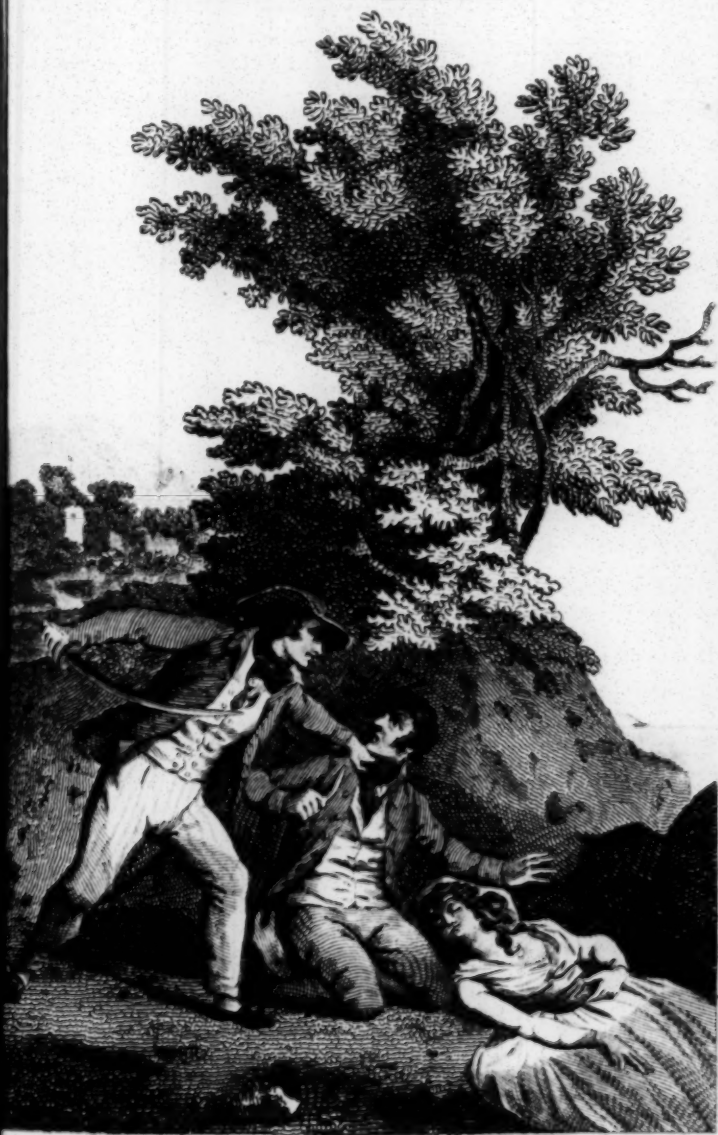
They were a second time indicted for assaulting Charles Langford on the highway, and robbing him of twenty-one shilling ; and were again all acquitted.

Then Clayton and Shephard were indicted for a felony, in stealing two pair of livery breeches, and a hat, the property of Samuel Pechell, esq; --- and where both acquitted.

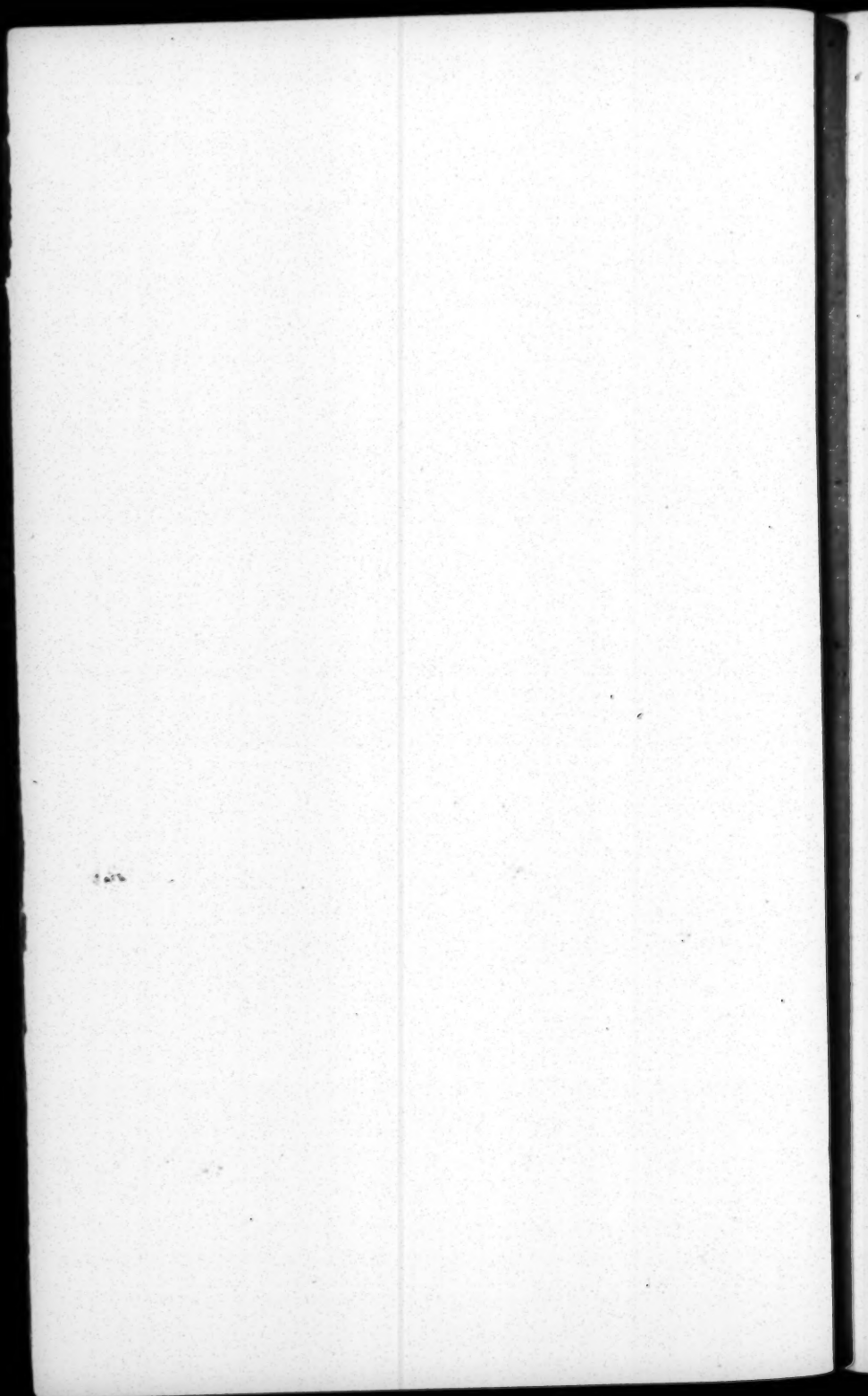
And lastly, Robert Shephard was indicted for stealing some worsted stockings and other articles of wearing apparel, out of the Duke of Manchester's stables—the property of Robert Nicholls ;—Mr. Nicholls, who is coachman to Miss Bennet, near Oxford Chapel, deposed to the loss of the articles above mentioned and the Prisoner was convicted to be transported ; by which Rann lost the company of one of his associates

It may not be improper, for the sake of such of the rising generation as may peruse this narrative, to repeat the old remark. that, Honesty is the best Policy." How happily might a lad Rationnd as Rann has been, have lived ! With how much credit to himself, and satisfaction to those who knew

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The Precipitate Attack.



knew him, might he have passed through life, if he had never permitted his steps to have sought the paths of iniquity ! There is so much more ease as well as satisfaction in doing our duty, than in acting contrary to it, that one would be tempted to wonder, if experience did not shew the contrary, that any man should fail to be, **VIRTUOUS FOR VIRTUE'S SAKE.**

On Saturday the 21st. of May last, about nine o'clock at night, Rann stopped John Devall, esq. near the nine mile stone on the Hounslow road, and robbed him of his money and a silver watch. He was at that time engaged in an amorous intercourse with Eleanor Roche, to whose lodgings he came about an hour after the above robbery, and give her the watch and five guineas. The watch was offered to Mr. Hallam, by Katherine Smith, who being questioned as to the manner of her becoming possessed of it, acknowledged that she was commissioned to dispose of it by Miss Roche. A warrant was then obtained, by virtue of which, these ladies were apprehended, and taken before Sampson Wright Esq. When informations in writing were taken from them respectively.

On Monday the 30th of May, Rann was apprehended, and on the Wednesday following put to the bar of the public-office in Bow street ; the watch was produced and sworn to, both by the Maker and Mr. Devall, the owner, who, however would not positively swear to the identity of Rann, but said, that from his appearance and

manner, he believed him to be the man who robbed him.

Miss Roche was now called, and though she had upon her examination before Justice Wright, positively sworn that she received the watch from Rann, she now disallowed every syllable contained in her information on oath, and pleaded very hard to be excused saying any thing against the prisoner, to whom she declared herself to be a perfect stranger. There seemed to be a mixture of real concern and ridiculous affectation in the behaviour of Miss Roche: for being asked if she knew Rann in a scarcely audible voice, she answered in the negative; and could not be prevailed on, for a long time to cast her eyes towards the bar; at last, after being indulged with a tumbler of water, and allowed a few minutes to collect her spirits, she very attentively fixed her eyes upon our hero, and then firmly persisted in the declaration of not having the least knowledge of his person, at the same time alledging, that the abrupt manner of the peace officers coming into her apartment, threw her into such extreme confusion, that without thought or design she acknowledged received the watch from Rann, whose name she pitched upon by mere accident. She said that when she persisted in her charge against him on her examination before Justice Wright, she was divested of reason; and begged to revoke the whole of her disposition which she declared to be false in every instance. This tale was neither invented nor executed with sufficient art to elude the penetration of the Magistrates

strates, who ordered Miss Roche behind the bar, to answer the charge of receiving the watch, the property of Mr. Devall, from Rann, knowing the same to be stolen.

Miss Smith was now sworn, and she deposed, that on the day of Mr. Devall's robbery. Miss Roche informed her that she expected Rann in the evening to bring her some money, that he accordingly came about ten at night, and retired with Roche for about half an hour; and that soon after his departure, she confessed having received a watch and 5 Guineas from him, saying, that he had that evening taken them from a Gentleman, on the highway; and that she carried the watch to Mr. Hallam, at the desire of Miss Roche.

Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he had any thing to offer in extenuation of the charge alledged against him, Rann replied,—‘I know no more of the charge than you do, nor half so much neither. Mr. Devall, and Mr. Hallam were then bound over to prosecute Rann as the principal, and Miss Roche as an accomplice after the fact were committed; and Miss Smith was bound to give evidence against them both.

Rann, when he came into the office behaved with a greater share of audacity than we ever remember observing in any other person in the like circumstances; his irons were tied up and decorated with sixteen yards of blue ribbons, and he had a nosegay of flowers in the bosom of his coat full as large as a common birch broom. His answers to the questions asked him, were rather calculated

culators to convince the auditors that he possessed a matchless share of effrontery, than to invalidate the charges brought against : In short his behaviour during his whole examination was deserving the severest reprehension. A shocking affectation of appearing gay in circumstances the most dreadful; and in a striking manner marks that imprudent degree of depravity by which low minds are frequently to be distinguished.

At the July sessions held at the Old Bailey, in 1774. John Rann and Katherine Smith were indicted; he for assaulting John Devall on the highway, putting him in fear, and robbing him of a watch valued 10l. and seven guineas in money; and she for receiving the said watch knowing it to be stolen.

First, Mr. Devall deposed, that, about nine o'clock at night, on the 21st. of May, he was stopped and robbed by two men on horseback, near the nine mile-stone, on this side Hounslow; that he was in a one-horse chaise, and gave one of the robbers seven guineas, and the other his watch; but it was so dark he could not distinguish their persons nor even the colour of the clothes they had on; that he then advertised his watch with a reward of four guineas, if it was brought to Mr. Hallam, the maker.

Mr. Hallam junior, deposed to the watch being brought to his father's house by Miss Roche.

Eleanor Roche deposed, that being at the house of the prisoner Smith, she said that Jack was gone upon the road to get her some money, that she

she expected him home at ten o'clock; that he came within five minutes after, in a coach, and gave Smith five guineas and the watch; that on the monday night following she was there, when Smith had got the watch by her side:—That Sir Johns Fielding's people being searching about the lodgings, Smiths put the watch into this deponents hand; that she (Roche) put the watch into a chair and put the cover of chair over it, so that it was not observed; that she afterwards talked with the prisoner, saying that she did wrong to give her the watch, for she might have come into trouble about it; to which Smith answered, "Oh! as you do not live with him, if I had given you fifty watches you could have come to no harm."—That when Rann came home, he had on boots and spurs; and that this deponent went afterwards to Mr. Hallam. and gave information where the watch might be come at.

Rann, in his defence, said he was ignorant of the robbery; that he had been acquainted with Roach a long time, and that she swore against him through malice, merely of his not taking her into keeping: and likewise that he had made her a present of some shoes.

Roche then owned that a person had given her shoes not long since at Epsom, but whether it was the prisoner or not she was not positive.

Katharine Smith said in her defence that she did not receive the watch from Rann, but from a person whom she met in the Strand, and took to a tavern, and not having any money, took directions

rections to her lodgings, to call for the watch, but did not come: and that Eleanor Roche had inveigled her maid out of it, with whom she had left it in case the gentleman called for it. They were both acquitted for this fact.

The most extraordinary circumstance in the conduct of this unhappy young man, is, that he very frequently boasted of his enormities in public company made no scruple to recite some of the particulars of his robberies; and even mentioned the time when he thought his career would be at an end. He used often to say, I have so much money left, I shall spend that, and then I shant last long." It has been frequent in his mouth that he should be hanged about November; and it is not long since he betted a crowns-worth of punch that one string would be sufficient for him before Christmas next.

A few days after his acquital, he engaged to sup with Miss —— at her lodgings in Bow-street, but not being punctual to his appointment, the lady went to bed; and about midnight her lover arrived, when not being able to get admittance at the door, he attempted to get in at the one pair of stairs window, and having very nearly accomplished his purpose, was perceived by the watchman, who took him into custody.

On Wednesday the 27th. of June, he was again put to the bar of Sir John Fielding's office, when Miss —— appeared in his behalf, and assured the bench that he could have no felonious intention, as he only attempted to get into her apartment, where

where he knew himself to be welcome, and would have gained a ready admittance, had she not unfortunately fell asleep. No other charge being brought against him, he was dismissed, after being exhorted by Sir John Fielding, in a very pathetic manner, to decline the vicious courses he had so long pursued. and apply himself to some honest, and less dangerous and disgracefull means of obtaining a livelihood.

One Sunday after this affair, our hero made his appearance at Bagnigge-wells, elegantly dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings laced hat, &c. and publicly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having drank there pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and discovering his loss, he said it was only a hundred guineas gone, and that one evenings Work would replace it. He became at length so extremely troublesome, that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house, but they met with so obstinate a resistance that they were obliged to give up their design; when a number of young fellows possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked him and actually forced him through the window into the road. His mind seemed more hurt than his body by this treatment, for he exclaimed bitterly against the frequenters of Bagnigge-wells, for the indignity they had shewn to a gentlemen of his character.

Some time after he was arrested for thirty-three pounds, and not being able to pay the debt, or

give bail, he was committed to the Marshalsea prison. In this situation he was visited by a great number of girls of the town, and by many young fellows of suspicious characters—his debt was soon paid and he was released.—It is supposed he ow'd his discharge to the intervention of his male friends only.

Some time ago Rann and two of his companions, were at a public house near Totenham-court Road, when two sheriffs-officers who had a writ against him, entered the room, and arrested him. As he had not money enough to pay the debt, he deposited his watch, worth ten guineas, and his two companions advanced three guineas, which together made more than the debt; and as a balance, the watch was to be redeemed and returned to Rann; he said if the Bailiff would lend him five shillings, he would treat him with a crowns-worth of punch; this being complied with, the liquor was called for, during the drinking, he told the officer he did not use him like a gentleman. "When Sir John Fielding's people come after me (said he) they use me genteely; they only hold up a finger, —beckon me,—and I follow them as quietly as a lamb.

This affair being settled, and the officers gone Rann and his companions mounted their horses rode off, but our hero returned in an hour or two stopped at the turnpike, and asked the toll-man if he had been wanted—"No," said the man—"What do not you know me?"—"No,"—Why, (said he) I am the famous Sixteen-String Jack, the
high

Highwayman—have any of Sir John Fielding's people been this way?" "Oh! yes, cried the toll-man they have—Some of them are but just gone through." Rann replied. "If you see them again tell them I am gone towards London," and then rode off at his leisure. It is said that a nobleman was robbed near the spot, that afternoon, but we cannot pretend to say that Rann was one of the highwaymen.

At the last Barnet races Rann was on the course, dressed like a sporting peer of the first rank. He was distinguished by the elegance of his appearance (his waistcoat blue satin, laced with silver) and was followed by hundreds from one side of the course to the other, whose looks expressed their pleasure and satisfaction to behold a genius of whose exploits the world had spoken so freely.

This circumstance evidently proves the curious disposition of the people of England, who are equally happy at the sight of a prince, a patriot, or a highwayman. It is no matter what the person is, so the character be but a distinguished one, they will be certain of being followed by the mob—and if not an object of envy, will most certainly become an object of admiration.

The day of the last public execution at Tyburn, Rann attended the fate of the unhappy culprits, in a coach, dressed elegantly, and near to the fatal tree, he got down, and on going within the ring made by the constables, he desired that he might be permitted to stand there, that he might have a good view of what passed, "for (says Jack) per-

haps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this melancholy occasion.

On Wednesday the 28th of September, 1774, John Rann, and William Collier, were examined at Sir John Fielding's office in Bow-street, on suspicion of their having robbed Dr. William Bell, Chaplain to her Royal Highness the princess Amelia, of eighteen-pence in money and his watch, on the highway, near Ealing, Middlesex.

The Doctor, in a circumstantial narrative, acquainted the Bench, that between three or four o'clock in the afternoon, on Monday the 26th. of September, as he was riding near Ealing, two men rather of a mean appearance rode past him; and that he remarked to himself that they had a suspicious look, yet, neither then, nor for some time afterwards, had he any idea of being robbed. At about half an hour after three, one of them, who he believed (but would not swear) to be Rann came up to the head of his horse, and demanded his money: saying, "Give it me, and take no notice or I'll blow your brains out." Mr. Bell then offered him eighteen-pence, which was all the silver he had; but in searching for more, the highwaymen found his watch and took it.

The same evening that this robbery was committed, between eight and nine o'clock, Miss Roche (who was kept by Rann) and her maid, brought a watch to pledge with Mr. John Cordy, a Pawnbroker in Oxford-road, who suspecting the honesty of the people who brought it, stopped it, and applied to the maker, Mr. Grignion of Russell
street

street, Covent-garden, who informed him that the watch belonged to Dr. Bell.

Mr. Clark, a peace-officer, deposed, that on going to Miss Roche's lodgings, on the Monday night, in consequence of the hints obtained by Mr. Cordy's stopping the watch, he found there two pair of boots, very wet and dirty, which had been worn that day :- and Mr. Hamburton, another Peace-officer, waited at Miss Roche's lodgings till Rann and Collier came thither, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

It likewise appeared on his examination, that on the next morning, two horses were brought to Miss Roche's lodgings, on which the prisoners were again to have taken a ride, to collect money in the usual manner ; but they were then happily in custody : there could be no doubt but the horses were intended for the use of Rann and Collier, for it was proved that Collier paid for the hire of them, though both the prisoners persisted in denying their knowing any thing about them.

Dr. Bell was certain that Rann bore a strong resemblance to the man who robbed him, though he would not positively swear to his identity. On the strength of the above recited evidence the prisoners were committed to Tothill-fields Bridewell for further examination on the Wednesday following; and Miss Roche was sent to Clerkenwell-bridewell, as the supposed receiver of Dr. Bell's stolen watch. The curiosity of the public to see Rann was so great, that there was not less than a thousand people had assembled in Dow-street.

On

On Wednesday the 5th. of October, John Rann, William Collier and Eleanor Roche (together with Christian Stewart, Roche's servant girl) were again brought to Bow-street, when Dr. Bell deposed, in substance as he had done the preceeding week, and positively swore that the stolen watch was his property.

Hannah Craggs swore to the being present at Miss Roche's lodgings, when the prisoners went away together on horseback, on the day of the robbery.

Mr. Cordy again proved the stopping of Doctor's watch, when it was offered to him in pledge, the same evening by Miss Roche; but the most corroborating evidence was given by Wm. Hills, (servant to the princess Amelia) who swore to his having seen John Rann, (who he had long known) with a companion, ascending the hill at Acton, about twenty minutes before Dr. Bell was robbed; and this answered extremely well to the distance from Acton to the place where the robbery was committed.

At the examination, Christian Stewart behaved with great duplicity; pretending at first that she did not know either of the prisoners, though she afterwards acknowledged that she knew Collier; and from hence arose a very just suspicion that she was well acquainted with the parties, and the nature of their occupation.

At the present strength of evidence was thought sufficient, John Rann and William Collier were committed to Newgate to take their trials for a
highway

highway robbery; Eleanor Roche to Clerkenwell Bridewell, and Christian Stewart to that of Tothil fields, to be tried as accessaries after the fact.

In October Sessions last, John Rann and Wm. Collier, were indicted at the Old Bailey, for the above robbery of Dr. Bell, together with Eleanor Roche as an accomplice after the fact, by receiving the watch from Rann, knowing it to have been stolen.

Dr. Bell in his evidence, proved the watch to be his property, and by a chain of concurrent circumstances, brought the charge home to the prisoners, except the particular point of swearing positively to their persons. But the Court clearly viewing the fact in a proper light, gave a very elaborate, and pathetic charge to the Jury, which at once distinguished their knowledge of the laws, and their love of mercy; clearly drawing a line between a circumstantial evidence, and positive proof.

When the judge had given his charge to the jury, they withdrew for some time, but no proof being brought to invalidate the evidence given on the trial, they brought in the prisoners Guilty, John Rann and William Collier to suffer Death, and Eleanor Roche to be transported for being an accessary after the fact was committed, by receiving the stolen watch.

Some favourable circumstances appearing in Colliers favour during the course of his trial, he was by the compassion of the jury, recommended to Court for mercy; and there is more than probable reason

reason to think that Rann would have escaped the punishment of his crime this time, had his character not have been so notoriously bad, and his name standing so often upon record at the Old Bailey.

When they were brought into Court, in order for trial Rann, behaved with a very careless and indifferent air, seeming entirely regardless of his truly critical and dangerous situation, and which all present could not behold without the deepest concern; his dress was entirely new, Green, with buckskin breeches, ruffle shirt, and hat bound round, with silver strings.

Rann was so confident of being acquitted, on his last trial, that he had ordered a genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of a number of his particular friends and associates on the joyful occasion: Alas! what was the disappointment of the company, when they heard the fate of the unhappy wretch---Riot was turned into mourning and the madness of guilty joy, to the sullen melancholy of equal guilty grief.

On Tuesday the 26th. of October, 1774, John Rann, William Collier, and Eleanor Roche received sentence at the Old Bailey; the two first to be executed at Tyburn, and the last to be transported for fourteen years. When Rann had received his sentence, he seemed by no means to be affected with it, but rather seemed to have a smile on his countenance, while his other companions appeared deeply affected with their crimes as well as punishment.

Since

Since his Confinement, from the first, he has lived a very and expensive life; being frequented by great numbers of his acquaintances of both sexes, to whom he always behaves in that same jocosive manner as he was wont to do when more at large having a number of entertainments, and servants to wait upon him.

But since his conviction by means of good advice, and the example of some who went to suffer before him, he seemed entirely struck with a proper sense of his most unhappy situation, and there is all the reason in the world to hope that such a reformation for the better will have the wished-for effect in procuring him happiness in another state which he could not enjoy in this.

HIS CHARACTER

Was, in general, that of a free and generous disposition; always ready to assist his associates or any former acquaintance, who might at any time stand in need of support; and as he was naturally a person of great courage and resolution, he was the better enabled to follow those means for the support of his extravagance, which are likely to turn out in the end so unhappily for him, his principal misfortune was that of being too much given to liquor, for in those intervals he would not only boast of those transactions which his self preservation required him to keep secret but quarrel with any

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person

person on the slightest provocation, We shall not endeavour to enumerate the crime of a poor wretch already too much under the hand of affliction, as some others have done before, by insinuating that he was not a Woman's Friend when it is well known, that if he had not had more love for them than his discretion could guide him in, he might at this day have been one of the most happy of men.

As his company had been much requested by many Ladies of easy virtue, he made choice but of one for a particular favorite; and, as this Lady's memoirs is no secret among the fair ones of Covent Garden, we shall make no hesitation in giving our readers some account of the transactions of the latter part of this lady's life, as related by herself to the following purport.



Memoirs of Miss SMITH.

THIS lady received an Education far above her circumstances; and at the age of fourteen was put an apprentice to one Mrs. E——, a milliner in the city, where she soon distinguished herself by her obliging behaviour, and became the favorite of all the customers scarce an article was bespoke, but Miss Smith must carry it home; and seldom did she perform an office of this kind without being rewarded for her trouble, when she had served about three years

years of her time. she was noticed by a young west indian Merchant, distinguished by the elegance of his person, and the gaiety of his manner's he soon revailed with her to quit her service, and live with him ; and for more than four months they appeared to live in a state of great harmony, but the figure of our heroine striking the fancy of a wealthy jew, he prevailed on her to quit her lover. and take up her abode near St Mary Axe.

With this lover she continued half a year; but quitted his embraces for a quiet assylum in the Temple, in the company of a young Gentleman who has since come to the possession of 2000l. per Annum, and a seat in Parliament during great part of the last sessions— This was the highest state of our heroine's exaltation. She was indulged with a chariot, and had two servants in livery to attend her, she frequented all the places of fashionable entertainment, and was in many places a favorite toast.

This connection ending in consequence of the marriage of the young Templer, Miss Smith was taken into keeping by a man in office in the west end of the town, who allowed two Guineas and a half per Week, and a servant-maid to attend her. But this servant-maid had positive private orders to watch all the motions of her mistress, and to give her keeper notice of the least deviation from the strict rule of conduct which he had enjoined her. It is not to be supposed that a connection of this kind could continue long, jealousy on one side, and an ardent desire of liberty on the other, soon broke the chain;

At this time our female advent'rer was about 22 years of age, and in the height of her beauty when a Jolly young tar, who had just received three years pay, cast eyes of affection on her, and prevailed on her delicacy to favor him with her company at his lodgings at Stepney. In this elysium she continued only six weeks, when the son of Neptune having expended all his cash and stretched his credit to the utmost, left his companion to seek her fortune and entered again into the service of his country.

As she was one day walking in a melancholy mood towards Whitechapel, a chariot stopt and a servant was dispatched to inform her that the gentleman in the chariot desired to speak with her. She hesitated a little, but went on. The enamoured youth, however, was not to be disappointed: he left his carriage, and after a few minutes conversation prevailed on her to attend him, to his house on the forest. The parties soon understood one another, and she continued in this situation near half a year when the sudden death of her keeper left her once more at large, to seek her fortune.

What, or how many more keepers she had before she became the favorite of our hero, we are not able to say.

She is now in circumstances that will probably induce her to reflect more seriously than she has ever yet done; and it is sincerely to be wished that a perfect reformation in mind and manners may be the consequence of her reflections.

Miss Smith is at this time, about twenty-six years of age: of a fair complexion, with a mixture

mixture of red; and rather above the middle-size
STRIGHTURFS on the Penal Laws

The Laws of England for punishing Capital Crimes with **DEATH** has the suport of the sacred Writings for their justification in a great variety of Instances; and so happily framed is the admirable Code, by which this Nation is governed that it is scarcely possible Condemnation should take place without the most positive Conviction of Guilt in the accused party.

Though our ancestors wisely foresaw, and prudently provided against, the Danger of entrusting the Life of an Offender to the Discretion of any one Individual by establishing that invaluable right of a Criminal's Trial by a jury of Twelve indifferent impartial men, entirely unconnected with, and uninfluenced by either party; yet to prevent the Severity of the Law in some cases from being executed with to heavy a hand for some offences, which in themselves, seem to deserve Lenity, have humanly deligated that Heaven like Attribute of Mercy in the power of the Prince, and which, when impartially bestowed, is the brightest Gem that can adorn his Crown.

By whatever means this noble Prerogative has in some Cases, had the appearance of being abused we shall not take upon us to determine; whether from an undistinguishing Benevolence, or a mean compliance to the desires of some favoured Persons; but certain it is, that some crimes which heaven has announced particular vengeance against, have received that Clemency which many have thought ill timed while the offences of a slighter Nature have met with what may be called justice in the extreme Severity.

However

However atrocious the crime of robbing on the Highway may at first appear, yet certain it is, there are many offences of a much heavier Nature that have received Mercy: among those are Murder, Burglaries, Forgeries, and murdering Street-Robbers: Whilst the Highwayman, in his attack, exposes himself to many Dangers, commonly for a very small Booty, and seldom or ever behaves ill to those, whom frequently his Misfortunes have laid him under a Necessity of levying Contributions from.

Such, we apprehend, are more deserving of Royal Favour than a hardened Villain, who in the Dead of Night, shall approach the Bed of Soft Slumber, and with the most execrating Oaths threaten destruction to those who shall oppose their villainous Inroads: such cannot be said to be too severely dealt with, by inflicting the punishment which Crimes of such an enormous Nature deserve that of punishment with Death.

The next Class of Desperadoes, are those who secretly lay wait for the unguarded passenger, and with as little proportion of Humanity as Honesty violently assail the destined Object of their dark Designs, and with the most hardened cruelty, not only plunder them for their property, but in case of Opposition, often Murder ensues, and frequently what is near as bad, by maiming and wounding the unfortunate Persons, render them entirely unserviceable to themselves, and a Burthen to their Families.

Too frequently are these Accounts corroborated by circumstantial Evidence at the Old Bailey; and a recent instance being fresh upon our memory with
respect

respect to Lane and Trotman, now under Sentence of Death for robbing Mr Floyd and Mr Robinson in a Coach near Chelsea, we shall give them nearly in the same manner as they delivered in the account of the Robbery on the Trial.

Mr Floyd deposed, that on Thursday the 4th of August, as Mr. Robinson and himself were going from London to Battersea in their way, at Knightsbridge, the weather turning out bad they got into a Coach, and that between Chelsea and Knightsbridge the coach was stopt, both doors were opened by 'ne thieves at once, and that there appeared to him to be two men; one of them was on his right hand, and the other on his Left, That the Person on his Right demanded his Money. and Lane who was on his Left' without saying one Word, drew a knife and cut his coat and shirt, and the Point of his Elbow, notwithstanding they made no Resistance, nor gave them any Provocation for such Treatment,

He was clear to the Identity of Lanes-Person, it being then quite Light, that the man on his right side clapped his hand on his Breeches to feel for his Watch, but having neither string nor Chain he could not find it; upon this, Lane made another stroke at him, and cut him across the wrist, by which wound he has lost the use of his Hand for ever, Being surprized at such barbarous treatment he in a stern manner asked them the reason of it, saying he would give them his Money if they would behave decent but the man on his right side called out *G-d B--st him cut away, cut his pocket out* Lane then made another
push

push at his Groin, but his hand being in his pocket, with the intention to give them his money, he receiv'd this Stroke upon his fingers and prevented the destined Injury.

By several Appearances on his Coat, it likewise appeared that the man on his right side had cut at him but without any material Injury. After he had received the third Wound he took his money out of his pocket, but not being able to hold it through the loss of Blood, he dropped some in the Coach, which Lane picked up. On searching his Pocket afterwards he found a quantity of money in the Blood in his pocket. He applied to a Surgeon as soon as possible but in the interim he supposed he had lost three Quarts of Blood. In the Course of his evidence he was certain to the persons of both the Prisoners.

This Account was supported by the evidence of Mr Robinson, who was likewise in the Coach, and the Coachman's Wife : but upon the attack of the Ruffians she fainted away, which so confused him that he did not take particular Notice of the prisoners, but believed them to be the men.

Though they got off with impunity at that Time the hand of justice seemed not to have parted with them, for in the beginning of September as Mr Payne to whom they were well known was in a Shop on Ludgate Hill, he observed them attempting to pick a Gentlemans pocket, but upon seeing him they quitted their enterprize, and went to Buttolomew-fair, where he secured them on Suspicion which was the Means of leading to the Discovery.